

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJ: SERBIAN PARTY CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY: VLASKALIC AND LAZIC WERE REELECTED TO TWO TOP PARTY POSITIONS AT SERBIAN LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS CONGRESS HELD IN BELGRADE APRIL 23-25, AND FORMER LEADERSHIP ACCUSED OF ORGANIZING LIBERALIST FACTION WAS FINALLY EXPELLED FROM LCY. US AND ITALY CHARGED WITH PRESSURING YUGOSLAVIA OVER BORDER DISPUTE AND THERE WAS IMPLICATION THAT SOME IDEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION WILL REMAIN IN ARTS AND MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

2. SEVENTH LC CONGRESS ELECTED 103 MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH REELECTED TIHOMIR VLASKALIC PARTY PRESIDENT, DJORDJE LAZIC AS SECRETARY, AND APPOINTED DOBRIVOJE BOSKOVIC TO NEW DEPUTY SEC POSITION. SERBIAN PRESIDUM OF 20 MEMBERS AND 13 MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO CHOSEN, AS WELL AS 19 REPS TO SIT ON LCY CENTRAL COMMITTEE (VLASKALIC IS 20TH)M

3. KEYNOTE ADDRESS DEALT AT LENGTH WITH LC'S STRUGGLE AGAINST LIBERALISM, WHICH VLASKALIC DEFINED AS OPPORTUNISTIC
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SUBSTITUTE FOR MARXISM AND PROMOTION OF PETTY BOURGEOIS

VALUES. HE SOUNDED CALL FOR PARTY UNITY AND PRONOUNCED IT WON AT END OF CONGRESS BUT ONLY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF UNIFYING ACTION WAS EXPULSION OF MEMBERS OF FORMER PARTY LEADERSHIP AND INFUSION OF NEW BLOOD INTO PARTY ORGANS. THOSE EXPELLED WERE NIKEZIC, FORMER PARTY PRESIDENT, PEROVIC, FORMER SECRETARY, AND HEVZATI AND AJTIC, FORMER MEMBERS OF CC SECRETARIAT.

4. VLASKALIC DENOUNCED ITALY AND US FOR ATTEMPTING TO EXERT PRESSURE ON YUGOSLAVIA, ADDING THAT BORDERS ARE PERMANENT AND INVIOABLE. CONGRESS FOLLOWED UP BY ADOPTING RESOLUTION CALLING ITALIAN CLAIM REVANCHIST ACT WHICH COINCIDED WITH "PRESSURE FROM IMPERIALIST AND OTHER REACTIONARY FORCES" ON YUGOSLAVIA AND NONALIGNMENT IN GENERAL. RESOLUTION ECHOED TITO'S SARAJEVO SPEECH (BELGRADE 1954) IN ASSERTING THAT LONDON AGREEMENT OF 1954 PERMANENTLY RESOLVED BORDER QUESTIONS BETWEEN ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA.

5. COMMISSION REPORTS REAFFIRMED ARTISTS' RIGHT TO EXPERIMENT BUT OPPOSED "NEO-SOCIALIST ENDEAVORS OF SOME SO-CALLED ART WORKS", NEWS MEDIA WERE ALSO REMINDED OF THEIR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM WORKING CLASS, AND "SOCIALIZING ROLE" OF MOTION PICTURES STRESSED; THUS, THERE WAS IMPLICATIONS THAT SOME RESTRAINTS MAY REMAIN IN ARTS AND MEDIA. TOON

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